

10 FEB 1959

Mr. Robert F. Wilcox/  
[redacted]

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Dear Mr. Wilcox:

On behalf of Mr. Dulles, I should like to thank you for your letter of 5 January.

In answer to your question regarding Imre Nagy, it is believed to be unlikely that the Communists would have announced the Nagy execution with full understanding of the international outcry this act would cause, unless the execution had in fact been carried out.

Sincerely,

GNEB

[redacted]  
Assistant to the Director

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January 5, 1959

Mr. Alan Dulles, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
United States Government  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The writer has some reason to question whether Mr. Imre Nagy was actually executed as reported by the Communists in the Budapest press.

This was perhaps more validly the request of a citizen for information when it was an emotional and vocal issue here recently in a senatorial election contest; at that time the local F. B. I. office was apparently in no position to provide any help on the question.

Nevertheless, the writer is still curious about the matter, and since we still presumably have a democracy in which the average citizen is called upon to make intelligent voting decisions in such situations, I am hopeful that you not only have, but will reply with the facts in the matter.

Your prompt attention will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,  
The signature is handwritten in cursive ink. It includes the prefix "Robert F.", the name "Wilcox", and a small checkmark or "X" to the right of the name.  
Robert F. Wilcox

Draft Reply To Letter  
Of 5 January 1959 Of

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Mr. Robert F. Wilcox

In reply to your letter of 25 January, Imre Nagy was executed, probably on Russian orders, by the Communists this past June, as announced by the Hungarian Communist press. We wish to advise you that reports from American observers in Hungary, both official and unofficial, support the conclusion.

Additionally the Hungarian regime of Communist party first secretary Janos Kadar has gone to great lengths to justify this act of legal murder, the longest and most thorough being a White Book on the conspiracy of Imre Nagy and his group. This book alone makes it clear that the announcement of his execution was intended as a dramatic warning to communist leaders that any attempt to liberalize a Communist regime--as Imre Nagy tried to do from 1953 up through the 1956 revolt--must necessarily be deemed as treason to international Communism. Thus, we believe it is extremely unlikely that the communists would have announced the Nagy execution with full understanding of the international outcry this act would cause, unless indeed the execution had been carried out.



Mr. Allen Dulles, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
United States Government  
Washington, D.C.